

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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EMERGENCY BRIEF

18 September 1956

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COUNTRY: Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT: Emergency Brief

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DATE OF INFO:

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I. Military

1. Not applicable.

2. (a) An unidentified radar unit in Butovice (N 50-03, E 14-22), near Prague was relocated in Zatec (N 50-20, E 13-33) in June 1956.

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(b) There was a radar station in the castle in Mikulov (N 48-48, E 16-38) which was focused on the Vienna Airfield.

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(c) An unidentified VS (Interior Guard) unit was stationed in the barracks in Prague-Vrsovice near the Koh-i-nor Factory.

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(d) Offices from the VPU (Vojensky projekteni ustav -- Military Designing Institute), located in various cities in Czechoslovakia, were transferred to VPU Headquarters in Prague II, Jindriska Street opposite the Main Post office.

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4. On various occasions, source heard [redacted] the duration of compulsory military service for soldiers who received qualified technical training in the service would be three years instead of the usual two years. 25X1

6. - 7. Source did not notice any change in the number of military vehicles and/or aircraft. 25X1

10. [redacted] 25X1

(a) Tesla developed radar which automatically directed an entire AAA Battery. The radar was so sensitive that when a grenade exploded, the radar was thrown off the plane onto the exploding grenade; (b) because the Americans have an effective defense against radar, Czechoslovakia is attempting to replace radar with thermo-indicators. [redacted] Tesla has advanced this development to such an extent that it is possible to detect a burning cigarette from a distance of 200 to 300 meters. 25X1

11. [redacted] about 150 railroad tank cars in the area of the "Benzina" old underground fuel storage facilities near Roudnice nad Labem (N 50-25, E 14-15). The tank cars had four axles. [redacted] 25X1

19. (a) A tower-type construction, [redacted] believed to be a short wave transmitter or wireless telephone relay, was located on the top of Praded Hill (N 50-05, E 17-15) in the Sumava area. 25X1

- (b) The first Czechoslovak atomic power plant (sic) was under construction on the right bank of the Vltava River near the railroad line from Prague to Kralupy nad Vltavou (N 50-14, E 14-19) about five minutes by express train from Kralupy. The construction can be viewed from the train. The skelton hangar for the reactor, measuring about 40x40x16 meters, has already been erected. [redacted] noticed tubing, large, deep foundations, and large basins in the construction area. The electric current from this atomic power plant (sic) would also be supplied to the steel mill in Kladno, which plant was scheduled for a major renovation and enlargement within the next ten years. 25X1

II. Civilian

1. There was no concerted drive to recruit women for industrial work; in fact, the reverse was true. It was rumored that married women would be released from work. Men were once again being placed in positions formerly occupied exclusively by women; i.e., street car attendants, etc.

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3. An acute shortage of meat continued; however, the situation has been somewhat alleviated in Prague since June 1956 because more frozen meat appeared on the market. There was an acute scarcity of fruit and vegetables, and also a great shortage of petroleum.

4. Recently, construction on the "autobahn" across Czechoslovakia which was initiated by the Germans during the war has continued. [REDACTED] 25X1

[REDACTED] 25X1

6. Lectures were held in factories and offices concerning procedures to be followed during air raids and concerning anti-atomic defense; also old air raid shelters were being cleaned and readied for emergencies. The lectures were sponsored by Svazarm [REDACTED] 25X1

10. During the period when the denigration of Stalin was most pronounced, there were rumors that Professor Mukarovsky from Charles University would be elected President of the Republic. [REDACTED] 25X1

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